Government's policies. However, in order to foster growth, competitiveness and transparency in the economy, Government has taken various measures to reduce and rationalise duties and liberalise interest rates.

(c) Both domestic and foreign companies engaged in infrastructure have long-term objectives and enjoy various fiscal concessions which make it unlikely that they will dis-continue their activities suddenly.

Utilisation of Revenue Collected from Tea Gardens in Darjeeling

2666. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of revenue collected as duties from the tea gardens of Darjeeling by the Union Government during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have undertaken development/welfare works for these tea gardens;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) As per the estimates available with the Tea Board, revenue collected by the Central Government from tea gardens in Darjeeling as cess on production of tea during past 3 years has been as follows :

Year	(Rs. in lakh)
1993	10
1994	8.6
1995	8.3

(b) to (d). For 10 years beginning from 1985-86 to 1995-96, a special scheme called Darjeeling Interest Subsidy Scheme was operated in Darjeeling District to encourage replanting, rejuvenation and infilling activities for boosting production. Under this scheme, Rs. 246.27 lakh have already been disbursed to the planters. Tea Board also implements labour welfare schemes in the district which inter-alia include providing grant to the wards of the tea garden workers for pursuing studies above the primary level and also providing financial assistance to educational institutions, hospitals etc. for construction of health centres, extension of educational and vocational training and specialised treatment facilities for the benefit of the tea garden workers and their families.

Growth Centres in A.P.

2667. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Growth Centres set up in Andhra Pradesh, so far;

(b) the location-wise details thereof; and

(c) the details of centres being set up in Andhra Pradesh during 1996-97 and proposed for 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). Four Growth Centres have been allotted to the State of Andhra Pradesh. The location-wise details thereof are given below :

	Name of Growth Centre & District	Status
(i)	Hindupur (Anantpur)	Approved
(ii)	Vizianagaram-Bobbili (Vizianagaram)	Approved
(iii)	Ongole (Prakasam)	Approved
(iv)	Khammam (Khammam)	Approved

Accumulation of stock of Coir Yarn and Coir Products

2668. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the accumulation of stock of coir yarn and coir products with the Government of Kerala due to fall in demand of these items both in domestic and foreign markets; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the Union Government to help clearance of accumulation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). With a view to encourage consumption of coir yarn and coir products in the country, the Government have issued an order on 26th June, 1996 for the continuation of the Rebate Scheme on sale of Coir Yarn and Coir Products (excluding rubberised coir products) in the Coir Sector during the year 1996-97.

Banking Support to Victims of Natural Calamities

2669. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India had issued any guidelines to the commercial banks in regard to financial assistance to persons affected by natural calamities/riots etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amounts disbursed so far in Orissa particularly in Nuapara and Kalahandi districts of the State during 1993-94 and 1994-95; and

(d) the number of persons benefited thereform?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it had issued standing guidelines to banks in August,